Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: Ron Ziegler

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
☐ Teletype	☐ Immediate	☐ TOP SECRET
☐ Facsimile	☐ Priority	☐ SECRET
☒ Airtel	☐ Routine	☐ CONFIDENTIAL
		☐ UNCLAS E F T O
		☐ UNCLAS

Date 3/2/81

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ALEXANDRIA (9A-563) (P)

RONALD LOUIS ZIEGLER,
PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TRUCKSTOP OPERATORS,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
INFORMATION CONCERNING;
POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER
(OO:NK)

b7C Enclosed for each recipient is one copy of memorandum of SA [redacted] to SAC, Alexandria, 2/23/81, captioned as above which sets forth pertinent information regarding captioned matter.

LEADS:

BALTIMORE

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

b7C Review indices regarding:

1) [redacted] white male, who reportedly lives in the Breezewood, Pennsylvania, area which is near the Maryland-Pennsylvania line and who is reportedly a [redacted] with "Overdrive" magazine. He was allegedly [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

DE-105 K-70

9-[redacted]-1

23 MAR 4 1981

3-Bureau (Enc. 1)
2-Baltimore (Enc. 1)
2-Cincinnati (Enc. 1)
2-Los Angeles (Enc. 1)
2-Louisville (Enc. 1)
2-Pittsburgh (Enc. 1)
2-Alexandria
TF:sw
(15)

Approved: [redacted] Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

b7C

[redacted]

2) [redacted], who may be operating out of [redacted] Frederick, Maryland 21701.

3) [redacted] who may be operating out of [redacted] Hancock, Maryland 21750.

CINCINNATI

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO

Check indices regarding:

1) [redacted] white male, about 45, who is [redacted] of "Overdrive" magazine in Los Angeles, California.

2) Conduct indices search regarding [redacted] alleged victim of strong-arm attempt by [redacted] and a representative of [redacted] in the past at Cattani's Truckstop, Dayton South Truck Plaza, Franklin, Ohio.

3) Regarding [redacted] white male, who was reportedly [redacted]

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Conduct indices check regarding:

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1) [redacted] white male, about 45, [redacted] of "Overdrive" magazine.

2) Regarding "Overdrive" magazine, P. O. Box 54078, Los Angeles, California 90054.

3) Regarding Trans American Press, Inc., 7753 Densmore Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91406.

LOUISVILLE

b7C

AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Conduct indices review in an effort to locate any information regarding the reported incident during late February, 1976, at the Mid-America Convention at Louisville, Kentucky, wherein [redacted] reportedly made a threat to [redacted] and at which [redacted] allegedly harassed [redacted]

PITTSBURGH

AT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Review indices regarding:

b7C

1) [redacted] white male, [redacted] with "Overdrive" magazine who reportedly lives in the Breezewood, Pa., area which is near the Maryland-Pennsylvania line. (Note that [redacted]

2) Regarding [redacted], possibly of the Frederick, Maryland, area which is not far from the Pennsylvania line.

3) Regarding [redacted] who is possibly from the Hancock, Maryland, area which is near the Pennsylvania line. (It is noted that [redacted] and [redacted] allegedly sent out the two letters mentioned in the enclosed memorandum.)

ALEXANDRIA

AT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

b7C

Show copies of the two letters mentioned in the referenced memorandum to U. S. Postal Service Inspectors since the possibility exists that the comments made against former [redacted] could possibly be considered scandalous and possibly a mail violation as a result.

SAC, ALEXANDRIA (9B-NEW)(P) 2/23/81

SA [redacted] b7C

RONALD LOUIS ZIEGLER,
PRESIDENT,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TRUCKSTOP OPERATORS,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
INFORMATION CONCERNING;
POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER
(OO:AX)

On 2/18/81, ASAC Stanley Klein, Alexandria Division, advised the writer that he had been telephonically contacted by Ron Ziegler, National Association of Truckstop Operators, 700 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia (549-2100), and Ziegler had advised that he wanted to talk to the FBI about a possible extortion matter which could involve interstate mail and about a break-in at his office that recently happened. ASAC Klein requested that the writer contact Ziegler for further details regarding this matter.

Alexandria indices reflect the following prior references to Ronald Ziegler:

52-283* - Case entitled "UNSUB; BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE OF RONALD L. ZIEGLER, 200 FORT DRIVE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 12/8/69." This file was destroyed on 1/12/78.

161-1612* - This was a Special Inquiry investigation initiated in 5/72, on Ronald Louis Ziegler, born 5/12/39, at Covington, Kentucky, present address 2008 Fort Drive, Alexandria, Virginia. The file reflects that Ziegler was married and had two children. The investigation was initiated to bring up to date a 1969 investigation regarding Ziegler who as of 5/72, was the Press Secretary to President Richard M. Nixon. The file reflects that no derogatory information was developed regarding Ziegler [redacted] from local arrest checks and a check with the Central Intelligence Agency. b7C

(2) Alexandria
TF:sw
(2)

A check of "Who's Who" in the Alexandria FBI Office Library reflects that Ronald Louis Ziegler was Press Secretary to President Nixon from 1969 to 1974. In 1975 he was employed with Syska and Henessy, Inc., 1720 I Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. This firm is an international firm with a New York office also.

It is noted that an extensive article with photographs appeared in the Tuesday, 2/17/81, edition of the "Washington Post." The article was entitled "Ron Ziegler, The Loyalist and the Lobbyist" and was written by Stephanie Mansfield. The article appeared in the "Style" section on pages B-1 and B-4. The article mentioned that Ziegler is presently employed as president of the National Association of Truckstop Operators which has offices on the fifth floor of a high-rise in Alexandria, Virginia.

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Ronald L. Ziegler was subsequently contacted by the writer on 2/18/81, at his office at Room 505, 700 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, which is the national office of the National Association of Truckstop Operators (NATSO) of which Ziegler is president. Present during most of the time that the writer interviewed Ziegler was [redacted] Publications-Public Relations with NATSO.

Ziegler advised that he had previously been interviewed by the FBI in past years in connection with the Watergate investigation and also in connection with a break-in that occurred in his home south of Alexandria in 1969.

Ziegler subsequently advised or provided publications, letters, or memorandums which reported on the following information:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRUCKSTOP OPERATORS (NATSO):

NATSO has a membership of about 1,005 truckstop operators plus numerous allied members. The organization is a trade association and the cost of membership is based on the gross income of the truckstop. One of the primary purposes of NATSO is to promote the truckstop industry by setting a "standard of excellence" through quality and character of its membership. The truckstops that are members are primarily owned by independent businessmen and are open twenty-four hours a day, year round. NATSO has a board of directors and thirteen regional directors and its members comprise a national and international network of travel facilities--food, lodging, repair service, and general merchandise items.

AX 9B-NEW

NATSO PUBLICATIONS:

NATSO publishes a magazine entitled "Cloverleaf" which is published the fifteenth of every otl r month. The executive and editorial offices for this publication are at 700 .orth Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia. NATSO also publishes the NATSO "Truckers News" which had a circulation in 1/81, of 214,042. This publication operates out of the address Post Office Box 1285, Alexandria, Virginia 22313. b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ziegler provided various documents which contain the following information: b7C

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AX 9B-NEW

[redacted]

Ziegler advised that [redacted] has recently resought membership in NATSO since Ziegler took over as president. Ziegler had a legal research project done regarding this situation, and after review of that research, it was decided that [redacted] and "Overdrive" would not be readmitted to membership in NATSO.

Ziegler advised that he has met with [redacted] in the recent past and he noted that [redacted] has allegedly recently [redacted] Ziegler said [redacted] was at the 1701, NATSO convention and at that time [redacted] membership in NATSO was still pending a decision by NATSO.

Ziegler said he is of the opinion that [redacted] possibly has organized crime connections and may ultimately be behind two letters which have recently been brought to his attention which relate to persons apparently attempting to set up a rival group to the NATSO trade association which is to be called the National Organization of Truckstop Operators (NOTSO).

Ziegler said he received information that a truckstop operator [redacted] had an incident with [redacted] in the past. [redacted] was allegedly approached by [redacted] and by a representative of [redacted] and some strong-arm tactics were apparently used on [redacted] in an effort apparently to get him to sell "Overdrive" magazine at his truckstop. Ziegler said he thinks that the FBI in the Dayton, Ohio, area was called in connection with that incident in the past.

[redacted] WITH "OVERDRIVE" MAGAZINE:

Ziegler said that [redacted] reportedly lives in the Breezewood, Pennsylvania, area near the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. Ziegler noted that the two letters circulated by persons associated with the NOTSO group, which is attempting to set up a rival trade association to NATSO, are active in a Maryland area near the Pennsylvania line near the Breezewood vicinity.

Ziegler made available copies of two letters regarding NOTSO and a summary of these follow:

Letter Number One:

This letter was received by NATSO headquarters from a b7C truckstop operator member who received the letter in the mail in 12/80, and forwarded it to NATSO headquarters for their information. This is a one-page letter which bears the letterhead "New Truckstop Association, P. O. Box 613, Frederick, Maryland 21701." The letter begins "Dear Truckstop Operator" and is signed [redacted] (Ziegler provided information that [redacted] Frederick, Maryland. [redacted] advised that [redacted] is an individual who recently dropped out of NATSO.

This letter announces that a new national association is being formed as a rival to NATSO. It says if the addressee is interested, he should fill in and send in a self-addressed card to

the above-mentioned Frederick, Maryland, address. The letter criticizes NATSO for the following reasons:

1) It does not serve the needs of its members.

2) Its executive committee serves selfish interests only.

3) Its membership is dropping.

4) Its financial reserves are dropping.

5) It has an increased cost of operation with its new president and staff.

6) Its new president has past political affiliations which make his effectiveness on Capitol Hill questionable. b7C

7) NATSO has only limited effective programs.

Letter Number Two:

This is a letter postmarked 2/13/81, at Frederick with the state not readable on the postmark. The letter bears the letterhead address "National Organization of Truckstop Operators (NOTSO), P. O. Box 361, Hancock, Maryland 21750." The letter is addressed to "Dear Truckstop Operator" and is signed in a typed signature [redacted]

The letter was addressed to [redacted] Alexandria, Virginia 22313. (Ziegler advised that this name and address for [redacted] is a bogus name and address set up by [redacted] in order to determine what type of communications are being received by truckstop operators who are members of NATSO. The [redacted] name and address was included in the NATSO booklet which includes all their members' names and addresses.)

This letter consists of three legal-size pages and tells about a new organization (NOTSO) being formed as an alternative to NATSO and its [redacted] The letter asks the recipient to fill out a questionnaire which comprises page 3 of the letter.

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The letter is critical of NATSO during the period of its [redacted] and accuses [redacted] of the following:

1) Mismanagement of NATSO.

2) Abuse of travel privileges paid by NATSO.

3) Used NATSO as a tool to enrich himself.

4) Padded the NATSO payroll with his wife and daughter.

5) In addition to his salary, he got a percent of the gross NATSO revenues.

6) He got a five percent kickback on the business of some companies for their joining NATSO.

7) He allegedly is a front for persons wanting to form a new truckstop association (not NOTSO) to destroy NATSO.

8) He is allegedly involved in a sex scandal for which he tried to make a truckstop operator take the blame.

9) [redacted] is referred to as a "rat pack, backroom wheeler-dealer."

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INCIDENT AT MID-AMERICA TRUCKING SHOW, LOUISVILLE, KY., 2/25-29/76:

Ziegler provided various memorandums relating to an incident that occurred during the Mid-America Trucking Show which was held at Louisville, Kentucky, during the period 2/25-29/76. [redacted] appeared at this show in his position as [redacted] and set up an exhibition booth for NATSO. During this show as an apparent harassment effort, [redacted] reportedly took photos of [redacted] at the NATSO booth. [redacted] was confronted by [redacted] who was then [redacted] of the National Independent Truckers Association and who was an associate of [redacted] had a tape recorder which was operating when he contacted [redacted] and he said he wanted [redacted] to make a statement that he would write letters to members of NATSO instructing them to start selling "Overdrive" magazine immediately. When [redacted] indicated resistance to this offer, [redacted] reportedly said, "Either you make a statement or you will not live through the night." At the time this statement

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was allegedly made by [redacted] four truck drivers who were apparently accompanying [redacted] were positioned at various exits around the area where the confrontation took place. [redacted] reportedly quickly went to a nearby office and requested that the police be contacted. Subsequently, police arrived at the scene and afforded protection for [redacted] for the remainder of his stay at the convention. [redacted] reportedly denied making the threat to [redacted] when confronted by officials.

One of the memos provided by Ziegler indicated that [redacted] had been identified as a person who [redacted] and he was allegedly [redacted] in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, as well as other states [redacted]

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[redacted] at that same convention reportedly approached a representative of the Eaton Corporation and sought to have the Eaton Corporation initiate an advertising contract for "Overdrive" magazine. When the Eaton representative refused, he was reportedly told by [redacted] that [redacted] would ask all the truck drivers to boycott the Eaton Corporation. At a special truckers' meeting held shortly after this confrontation, [redacted] reportedly asked all the truck drivers present to boycott the Eaton Corporation as well as to boycott all NATSO truckstops that did not sell "Overdrive" magazine.

Ziegler also provided a copy of a letter dated 12/10/74, from [redacted] "Overdrive" magazine, which begins "Dear NATSO Member." The letter denies that [redacted] was involved in promoting any highway or truckstop blockades by truckers during the previous winter.

BREAK-IN AT SUITE 505, 700 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 2/17-18/81:

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Ziegler advised that sometime on the evening of 2/17-18/81, someone broke into the NATSO headquarters office at Suite 505, 700 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The break-in was discovered by [redacted] of NATSO at about 9:30 a.m. on 2/18/81. It appears that the person or persons that broke in entered the NATSO space on the fifth floor by removing a ceiling partition which allowed them access to the ceiling area and then crawling through the ceiling area until they dropped down into an office nearby. The reverse side of the wall where the apparent entry into NATSO space occurred is the wall of the office of [redacted] who now is with

[redacted] Ziegler said they were unable to locate that anything was taken or that any records were disturbed in connection with this break-in. It was noted that near the point where the ceiling partition was removed just above NATSO space, there was a valuable typewriter which could easily have been taken and which was not. Ziegler said that [redacted] reported that the only thing that was taken from his office apparently was a Lanier recorder. Ziegler said that the Alexandria Police Department was called and an Officer [redacted] responded to investigate on the morning of 2/18/81.

Ziegler pointed out to the writer an inscription on the wall across from the elevators on the fifth floor which is near the point where the entry was made into the NATSO space. The writing on the wall said, "I was here," and appeared to be in ballpoint pen ink.

Ziegler advised a pair of scissors with both blades broken off was found above a ledge in a control room just outside the entrance to Suite 505 at 700 North Fairfax Street. He said this is a type of scissors of the same apparent brand as those used in the NATSO office.

(It is noted that the break-in at the NATSO office on the evening of 2/17-18/81, appeared after a very extensive article about Ziegler, his association with Watergate, and his new position with NATSO appeared in the "Washington Post.")

FIRING OF FIVE NATSO EMPLOYEES:

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Ziegler advised that on Thursday, 2/12/81, five NATSO employees were released due to budgetary cuts and their work record. He said they received liberal severance pay.

He said one of those released was [redacted] Her [redacted] has a small electrical business of his own and helped NATSO in the past in connection with NATSO conventions. He also has done repair work and electrical work in the NATSO headquarters office and is familiar with its layout and ceiling structure. Ziegler said he believes that [redacted] also has the key to the main entrance to the building that the NATSO office is located in. Ziegler noted that [redacted] is not a NATSO employee. He said on 2/18/81, [redacted] came to the NATSO office in an effort to utilize the Xerox machine and offered to pay for this service.

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Ziegler advised that shortly after [redacted] was released by NATSO, [redacted] approached Ziegler and using profanity, expressed anger about the firing of [redacted] by NATSO.

MISCELLANEOUS:

During contact with NATSO headquarters and Ziegler on this date, the following publications were obtained:

1) Copy of the January/February, 1981, issue of "Cloverleaf" published by NATSO which has a photograph of Ronald Ziegler on the cover.

2) Copy of the January, 1981, issue of "NATSO Truckers News."

3) Copy of the Spring, 1980, issue of the "National Truckstop Guide" published by NATSO which contains a list of all its members and other data.

4) A copy of the December, 1980, issue of "Overdrive, The Voice of the American Trucker" published monthly by the Trans American Press, Inc., Van Nuys, California.

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ADDITIONAL ALEXANDRIA INDICES CHECKS ON 2/19/81:

Alexandria indices are negative regarding [redacted] "Overload" magazine, and Trans American Press, Inc.